



## Amendments to the Claims

### **1-14. (Cancelled)**

**15. (Previously presented)** A method for producing purified marigold oleoresin, which comprises:

- subjecting marigold oleoresin to supercritical fluid extraction, to obtain an extraction solution and an extraction residue;
- dissolving the extraction residue in a ketone solvent to obtain a solution;
- cooling the solution to form precipitates and removing the precipitates from the solution; and
- concentrating the solution, to thereby obtain the purified marigold oleoresin.

**16. (Previously presented)** A method for producing purified marigold oleoresin, which comprises:

- dissolving marigold oleoresin in a ketone solvent to obtain a solution;
- cooling the solution to form precipitates and removing the precipitates from the solution;
- concentrating the solution;
- subjecting the concentrate to supercritical fluid extraction, to obtain an extraction solution and an extraction residue, to thereby obtain the purified marigold oleoresin as the extraction residue.

**17. (Previously presented)** The method for producing purified marigold oleoresin claimed in Claim 15 or 16, which is characterized by carrying out the step of supercritical fluid extraction in the presence of a diluent.

**18. (Previously presented New)** The method for producing purified marigold oleoresin claimed in Claim 15 or 16, which is characterized by carrying out the supercritical fluid extraction using a supercritical fluid selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, ethane, ethylene, propane, toluene and dinitrogen monoxide.

**19. (Previously presented)** The method for producing purified marigold oleoresin claimed in Claim 15 or 16, which is characterized in that the ketone solvent is acetone, methylethylketone or diethylketone.

**20. (Previously presented)** The method for producing purified marigold oleoresin claimed in Claim 15 or 16, wherein the supercritical fluid extraction is carried out using a carbon dioxide supercritical fluid under the condition that the carbon dioxide pressure is  $(980 \text{ to } 2940) \times 10^4 \text{ Pa}$  ( $=\text{N/m}^2$ ) and the temperature is at critical temperature to  $80^\circ\text{C}$ .

**21. (Previously presented)** The method for producing purified marigold oleoresin claimed in Claim 20, wherein the supercritical fluid extraction is carried out using a carbon dioxide supercritical fluid under the condition that the carbon dioxide pressure is  $(1470 \text{ to } 2450) \times 10^4 \text{ Pa}$  ( $=\text{N/m}^2$ ) and the temperature is at  $40^\circ\text{C}$  to  $60^\circ\text{C}$ .

**22. (Currently amended)** Purified marigold oleoresin obtained by the method described in Claim 15 or 16, which is a liquid or a paste at room temperature, and has a viscosity of not more than 20,000 mPa.s at  $30^\circ\text{C}$ .

**23. (Previously presented)** Purified marigold oleoresin as claimed in Claim 22 having a lutein-fatty acid ester content of not less than 20% and a viscosity of not more than 20,000 mPa.s at  $30^\circ\text{C}$ .

**24. (Previously presented)** Purified marigold oleoresin as claimed in Claim 23 having a lutein-fatty acid ester content of not less than 30% and a viscosity of not more than 20,000 mPa.s at  $30^\circ\text{C}$ .

**25. (Previously presented)** Purified marigold oleoresin as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the viscosity is not more than 10,000 mPa.s at 30°C.

**26. (Previously presented)** Purified marigold oleoresin as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the viscosity is not more than 5,000 mPa.s at 30°C.

**27. (Previously presented)** A soft capsule which contains the purified marigold oleoresin as described in claim 22.

**28. (New)** A composition consisting essentially of purified marigold oleoresin obtain by the method described in Claim 15 or 16, which is a liquid or a paste at room temperature, and has a viscosity of not more than 20,000 mPa.s at 30°C.